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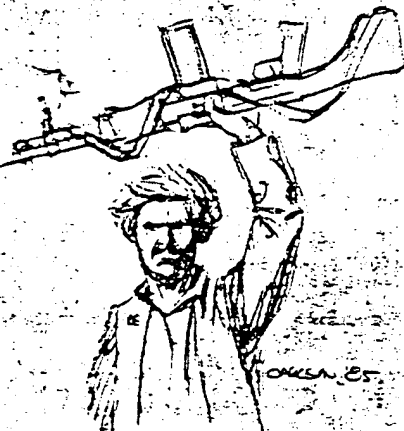
WASHINGTON TIMES
5 February 1985

'Quietly passing the word' won't save Ethiopians

Cord Meyer began his Jan. 18 piece on Ethiopia by very correctly pointing out that the responsibility for the starvation deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent peasants lies directly with the Marxist regime which, Mr. Meyer points out, has substantially reduced domestic food production through forced collectivization of farms and the usual counter-productive socialist economic policies.

Mr. Meyer also discusses the regime's \$100 million anniversary festival, the forced migration of thousands, the Ethiopian Air Force's bombing and strafing of starving refugees and the other acts which clearly establish the illegitimacy of any claim by the Ethiopian regime to be a government that has any real regard for its people.

But where does Mr. Meyer take us after demonstrating the true nature of the criminal Marxist regime? Should we denounce it in the UN, start an international trade boycott, provide covert support for the anti-government rebels, organize a multi-lateral force or even send the



82nd Airborne & Co. to remove the Marxists from power?

Oh, heavens no! Mr. Meyer simply suggests that the State Department should "quietly" pass the word to the Ethiopian regime that it would get more aid from the U.S. if it would only "put some distance between itself and the Soviets" and show some willingness to adopt "more rational agricultural practices."

Here we have a regime which is directly responsible for the deaths

of hundreds of thousands of its people; a Marxist dictatorship which daily sings praises of its mentor the Soviet Union; a brutal regime which misses no opportunity to denounce the U.S. as an "enemy"; a criminal regime which plots with Libya's Muammar Qaddafi to install Marxist brethren in Sudan and Somalia; a regime which engages in genocidal warfare by deliberately preventing food shipments from reaching the Eritrean and Tigrean populace.

The most disturbing element in all this is the fact that Mr. Meyer is a former high-level CIA official, in which he spent 26 years. I think we can assume that his Jimmy Carter/Cy Vance "let's be gentle with those poor third-worlders" philosophy is what he practiced and promoted in the agency. Funny, I thought all the "quietly pass the word"-types were in the State Department and the Peace Corps. I guess it's no wonder we've been losing ground since World War II.

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